

May 2004

Wyle Laboratories, Inc.  
Norco, California



## *Sampling Near Northwestern Boundary*

*DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.*

*State of California*



*California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency*



### **Why we've prepared this information packet**

As you are aware, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the lead agency overseeing the environmental investigation and cleanup at Wyle Laboratories (Wyle), located at 1841 Hillside Avenue in Norco, California. On Thursday, May 6, 2004, we notified you that based on preliminary soil gas and groundwater sampling results taken on the boundary of Wyle, we wanted to take additional soil gas samples along Golden West Lane. We have received preliminary results that necessitate additional soil gas samples in your neighborhood.

This fact sheet is intended to help you understand why we need to take additional samples, what the sampling will consist of, and who to contact if you have any questions. We are also planning to hold a public meeting in mid-June (location to be determined) to update the entire community. We will notify you separately once the location has been determined.

### **Site history and background**

Wyle is a testing facility that serviced the defense, aerospace, and manufacturing industries. It consists of 429 acres of land, divided geographically into several areas. Each area typically consists of one or more small buildings, structures, and/or outdoor testing areas built for certain testing procedures and to house specific testing apparatus.

Activities at the site included the use of hazardous substances such as chlorinated solvents, petroleum hydrocarbons, explosives, and munitions residues and rocket motor fuels. These operations have resulted in the release of hazardous substances to the soil in localized areas and groundwater. The primary chemical of concern is the solvent trichloroethylene, or TCE.

### **Who's in charge of the Wyle site cleanup**

From 1999 to mid-2003, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board -Santa Ana Region (RWQCB) was involved with limited investigations conducted at the site. The site was transferred to DTSC in mid-2003. On October 3, 2003, DTSC executed Consent Order HSA-CO 03/04-042 with Wyle and Arrow Electronics, Inc. to

address surface and subsurface contamination at the site. The Order requires full site-wide characterization and remediation, if necessary.

### **Site boundary assessment**

DTSC requested a site boundary assessment to evaluate if contaminants on the Wyle property are migrating offsite and to assess current and future risk to the surrounding community from site-related contaminants.

As part of the investigation, 76 samples were collected on the site along the north/northwestern, western, and southwestern boundaries. Figure 1 shows the sample locations.

Elevated levels of TCE were detected at only one location (ESB-34) at the northwestern corner of Wyle property.

### ***Off-site soil gas sampling on Golden West Lane***

Off-site soil gas sampling was conducted to assess if contaminants detected on Wyle property are migrating off-site; and to define the northern extent of the TCE soil vapor plume if necessary. Sixteen (16) soil gas samples were collected along Golden West Lane. Figure 2, enclosed herein is an aerial photo which shows the approximate sampling locations and preliminary sampling results.

TCE was detected in three locations (ESG-5, ESG-6, and ESG-7) above a preliminary screening level of 100 µg/L.

### ***No immediate health risk along Golden West Lane***

The TCE concentrations detected in the soil gas along Golden West Lane

do not pose an immediate threat to human health. The maximum concentration detected is 350 µg/L. Concentrations of TCE would have to reach a level above 10,700 µg/L to pose an immediate risk to health.

### **Additional soil gas sampling planned for selected residential properties on Golden West Lane**

DTSC is requiring additional soil gas sampling on select residential properties along Golden West Lane in proximity to areas where the 100 µg/L screening level for TCE was exceeded. The screening level refers to a value above which further assessment is needed due to potential concerns from long term exposure.

Wyle is seeking authorization from homeowners to obtain access to properties where sampling is required. DTSC anticipates sampling in mid – June. This is contingent upon the receipt of signed property access authorization forms.

### ***How soil gas sampling works***

Soil gas sampling is a tool used to help detect areas where volatile organic compounds were spilled or spread out from a spill area. Soil gas is the air in the tiny spaces between the soil particles. When spilled on the soil surface, volatile organic compounds (such as TCE) tend to move down into the soil, slowly vaporize from the liquid state into gas, and spread through the tiny spaces in soil. Sample collection for soil gas involves getting a sample of the gas spread among the soil particles.

### ***Soil gas sampling equipment used***

Soil gas sampling uses a truck-mounted rig, or smaller limited access equipment to hydraulically push or hammer a 2-inch tube into the ground to create a small-diameter hole. The hole is fitted with a tube, partially filled with sand and sealed with cement. The sampling process does not generate a significant amount of dust. A syringe is used to collect the air sample from the tube. The air in the filled syringe is analyzed by a mobile lab parked on the street following procedures developed by DTSC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Every reasonable effort to return the property to the condition it was in prior to sampling will be made.

### **Where you can get more information about the site**

Copies of the Wyle site-related documents are available for review at:

Norco City Hall  
2870 Clark Avenue  
Norco, California

Corona Library  
650 South Main Street  
Corona, California

Dept of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, California  
Call Ms. Julie Johnson to make an appointment at 714-484-5300.

### **DTSC contacts**

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Mr. Derrick Alatorre  
Public Participation Specialist  
714-484-5474  
email: [dalatorr@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:dalatorr@dtsc.ca.gov)

Mr. Shahir Haddad  
Project Manager  
714-484-5368  
email: [shaddad@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:shaddad@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Media inquiries**

Ms. Jeanne Garcia  
Public Information Officer  
818-551-2176  
email: [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Community Advisory Group**

A community advisory group (CAG) has been formed to advise DTSC on community concerns. The CAG invites citizen participation so that questions or concerns regarding any aspect of the contamination problems - past, present or future - may be addressed; and encourages local associations and community groups to invite CAG representatives to its meetings.

For further information, please contact Dr. Jeanne Guertin, CAG Chair  
4370 California Avenue,  
Norco, CA. 92860  
(909) 582-9010

### **Notice to the Hearing Impaired**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist Derrick Alatorre at 714-484-5368.

### **DTSC website**

For more information about DTSC, please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)